sion include improved interaction at governmental and business level, exchange of trade delegations, arranging of buyer-seller meets and participation in trade fairs. In the case of Spain, the Joint Business Council met in New Delhi in March, 1994 while the Indo-Spanish Joint Committee is expected to meet in October this year. Some of the Indian trade delegations which visited Spain in the recent past include representatives of MPEDA, Tobacco Board, Solvent Extractors' Association and the Export Promotion Councils for Leather, Handicrafts, Carpets and Gem and Jewellery.

(b) Major items of export to Spain are marine products, leather and leather manufacturer, textile goods, drugs pharmaceuticals and chemicals. Imports from Spain inter-alia include organice chemicals, artificial resins, plastic materials iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, machinery and projects goods.

(c) Some areas of potential export interest to India are agricultural products, automobile ancillaries, sports goods, tea, coffee and tobacco while there are possibilities of importing items such as chemicals, professional items and optical goods from Spain.

Import of essential commodities through STC

810. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration regarding import of essential commodities in order to maintain price stablity in case the domestic production falls short; and

(b) if so, whether all such imports be made exclusively through the STC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Depending on the requirements for the Public Distribution System determined by the Food Ministry and Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution, import of sugar and Palmolein is being undertaken by STC and MMTC, for augmenting supplies under PDS.

(b) Import of these items is not canalised through STC.

Import of waste paper

811. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India imports 20,000 tonnes of waste paper for recycling;

(b) if so, what is the annual waste paper collected in India;

(c) to what extent the recycling of this paper is done by the industry;

(d) what are the reasons for importing such a huge quantity of waste paper for the country.

(e) what are the names of the countries from where waste paper is being imported and at what cost;

(f) whether Government are considering to ban this import of waste paper from 1994 onwards; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) It is a fact that waste paper is being imported into India for recyling. As this item does not appear separately in Indian Trade Classification based on Harmonised Commodity Description, information regarding the import o waste paper is not available separately. However, dur-

ing 1993-94 India has imported a total of 6,27,033 tonnes of pulp and waste paper, which includes waste paper also.

(b) and (c) The quantity of waste paper collected in the country is estimated at 8 to 8.5 lakh tonnes per annum. Out of this about 7 lakh tonnes of waste paper is used for recyling by the paper and paper board industry.

(d) Domestic availability of waste paper is not adequate to meet the entire requirement of the industry. Therefore, import of waste paper is allowed. Besides requirement for high grade of waste paper to produce better quality of paper is met from imports.

(e) Pulp and waste paper is being imported from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas Belgium, Brazil. Canada; Channel IS Chile; Chinese Taipei; China PRP, Columbia Cyprus; Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, German Fed. Rep. Hongkong, Indonesia, Italy Jamaicia, Japan; Korea RP; Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherland, Newzealand, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, Quatar, Rissua Saudi Arab. Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Srilanka, Switzerland, Tanzania REP, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, USA etc. 6,27,033 tonnes of pulp and waste papare was imported during 1993-94 at a total cost of Rs. 49,439.60 lakhs.

(f) and (g) Under the Export-Import Policy 1992-97 waste paper is freely importable.

Export-Import Policy is reviewed constantly and changes are made whenever required.

D'sbursement of duty drow back for Exporters

812. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have consituated a core group to look into the issues of delay in the disbursement of duty drawback claims for exporters;

(b) if so, whether the committee has been asked to submit the report by the end of March, 93;

(c) if so, what are the other points referred to by the committee;

(d) by when the committee is likely to submit its recommendations;

(e) whether it is a fact that the exporters have strongly urged Government to retain Section 80 HH and 80 HHE on long-term basis and also rationalise on the basis of computation so that exporters can do their export planning over a relatively longer period;

(f) if so, whether Government have accepted the suggestion; and

(g) if so, by when this is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) and (g) Since the Rupee has been made convertible on the current and Trade accounts, the exporters are receiving the market value for their forex earnings. The rate of Direct taxation have been reduced substntially benefitting the exporters. Due to importance of export earnings for the balance of payment position, the support required by the exporters is being reviewed from time to time in the light of emerging external and internal factors.

Marine product exports from Visakhapatnam

813. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total marine products exported from Visakhapatnam Port during 1993-94;

(b) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh is fast emerging as the leader in marine product exports; and